

Manual of the Confraternity of
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
and Saint Alphonsus



Shrine of
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
St. Peter's Church
1019 North Fifth St. Phila. 23, Pa.

Archconfraternity of OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP and ST. ALPHONSUS

Established in the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Object

To increase devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and insure her constant and powerful intercession.

Advantages

1. Members gain many plenary and partial indulgences.

2. They share in the devotions, prayers and good works of the entire Archconfraternity.

3. They also have a special share in the fruits of the Missions, Apostolic Labors and pious exercises of the Redemptorist Fathers; and in the Masses, Communions, prayers, penances and other good works which are performed by the entire Congregation of Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers.

4. There are many Masses said during the year for those who have died as members of the Archconfraternity.

Requirements

All that is necessary is to have the name and address recorded in the Confraternity Catalogue where canonically established, to make the Act of Consecration to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Alphonsus, and to wear the medal of the Confraternity. Those living at a distance may be enrolled by mail.

There are no dues required of members, but in order to defray the expenses of the manual, medal and picture with Act of Consecration given to each member, an offering of ten cents is requested.

Address all communications to:

**Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Fifth Avenue and Fifty-Ninth Street
Brooklyn 20, N. Y.**

Art of Consecration to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Alphonsus

I, N.N., desiring to consecrate myself entirely to the service of the ever BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, from whom, after God, I expect all help and assistance in life and in death, unite myself with the members of this pious Archconfraternity which has been erected in honor of our Blessed Lady of Perpetual Help.

And as my special patron, I choose the glorious St. Alphonsus, that he may obtain for me a true and lasting devotion to the ever Blessed Virgin, who is honored by so sweet a name.

I promise, moreover, to renew my Consecration to the holy Mother of God and St. Alphonsus on the day of every month or the following Sunday, after receiving the holy Sacraments.

O Mother of Perpetual Help! receive me as thy servant, and grant that I may experience thy constant motherly assistance. I promise to have recourse to thee in all my spiritual and temporal necessities. My holy patron, St. Alphonsus, obtain for me the grace of an ardent love for Jesus Christ, and constancy in invoking the Mother of Perpetual Help.

M

was enrolled19....

REV. FATHER RECTOR, C.S.S.R.

No..... *Director of the Confraternity.*



Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pray for Us!

Manual
OF THE
Confraternity of
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
AND
Saint Alphonsus

Third Revised Edition



REDEMPTORIST FATHERS
5 E. 74th St., New York 21, N. Y.

REVISED EDITION

Imprimi Potest.

JAMES BARRON, C.S.S.R.

Sup. Prov.

Imprimatur.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Nov. 9, 1926.

✠ THOMAS E. MOLLOY,

Bishop of Brooklyn.

Confraternity of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Alphonsus

Part I.

The Archconfraternity

1. Origin

Although devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help needs no introduction in the United States and Canada, still, for the benefit of those not familiar with it, we give in the following pages of the Manual, together with facts regarding the Archconfraternity, a brief outline of the history of the Miraculous Picture. This wonderful picture was restored to public veneration in Rome 1866. The devotion to Our Lady under the title of "Perpetual Help" grew so rapidly after the picture had been set up for public veneration, as related in Part II, that,

the faithful earnestly desired that a confraternity be established in Rome. Our Blessed Mother had proved during the space of five years that she had set up for herself in the Church of St. Alphonsus a throne of grace and mercy.

Realizing the great good that was accomplished, and desiring further to extend and make better known this loving kindness and incessant help of Mary, and to solidify the devotion in the hearts of the faithful, the confraternity was established under the patronage of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Alphonsus. Very Rev. Father Mauron, Superior General of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, petitioned the Holy See to approve and canonically erect this pious sodality. By a decree dated May 23, 1871 the request was granted. On the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, June 4, 1871, the confraternity was solemnly established in the Church of St. Alphonsus with appropriate services. This day was memorable because in 1839 on the same date St. Alphonsus had been canonized. At once many clients of Mary inscribed their names in the new confraternity. In a few brief years

it numbered over six thousand, and Pope Pius IX at this time enriched it with many indulgences.

Another five years elapsed. God had blessed the Confraternity. Through it Mary worked wonders. Each day saw the multitude of members increased. So popular did it become that in several other cities similar sodalities were erected; notably at Pisa, Vienna, Paris and Limerick. Many more would have been founded had they been allowed to combine with that established in Rome.

The Rector Major of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer realized that more good would be accomplished if these various societies already established and those that would be formed under the patronage of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, were affiliated to the one in Rome. More beneficial results and a more widespread devotion would be the result of concerted action. He, therefore, asked the Holy Father to raise the Confraternity in Rome to the dignity of an Arch-Confraternity with the power of aggregating to itself like confraternities established in various places. Pope Pius IX granted this on

March 31, 1876, naming the Superior General of the Congregation its head, at the same time adding more indulgences to those already given. It was at this time, too, that the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was placed on the Church Calendar.

On June 18, 1876 after a solemn triduum, preparatory to the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the Archconfraternity was inaugurated. The name of the Holy Father Pius IX, was the first to be inscribed on the catalogue of members.

From that day to this the number of confraternities throughout the world affiliated with the Archconfraternity in Rome has been yearly augmented so that in 1925 it numbered 1250 branches with millions of members enrolled.

2. Special Object

All pious associations have a special object in view, particular requirements and peculiar advantages. The aim of this sodality may be summed up under the following heads:

1. To have its members serve and honor the Queen of Heaven under the title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

To strive to spread devotion to her so that others may do likewise.

2. To have recourse to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in all spiritual and temporal necessities, especially in times of trials, temptations, sufferings and difficulties.

3. Requirements

1. It is necessary to be *enrolled* in the Confraternity catalogue of a church where the Confraternity is canonically erected.

(N.B. It is canonically established in nearly every Redemptorist Church in the U. S.)

2. To make the *Act of Consecration* to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Alphonsus. This is printed on the enrollment card which you receive. Mark on it your name and the day on which you intend to renew this act of consecration. For any just cause the date may be changed. (Monthly Renewal of Acts of Consecration found on pages 37 and 45 of this Manual.)

3. The *Medal* which you receive has the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on one side and that of St. Alphonsus on the reverse. This

should be worn, if possible, or at least kept piously.

(N.B. It is also well to have a little booklet with the history and prayers of the Confraternity. This little "Manual" or other such booklet is appropriate.)

An offering of ten cents is usually requested to cover expense of enrollment card, medal and booklet when application is made for membership. No fee for Religious.

4. Advantages

1. The members are assured of the constant protection of the Mother of Perpetual Help and the intercession of the great St. Alphonsus de Liguori.

2. They share in the public devotions, prayers and good works of the thousands of members of the entire Archconfraternity.

3. By the express will of the Superior General of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, members have a special share in the fruits and merits of the Missions, Apostolic Labors, Spiritual Exercises, the Masses, Communions, prayers, penances, and other good works performed by the entire Congregation of

the Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers.

4. Many plenary and partial indulgences accorded by several Popes. A summary is given on the following pages.

5. Those who die as members have many Masses said for them during the year.

Summary of Indulgences Approved by the Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary, January 20, 1932.

A. A PLENARY INDULGENCE, on condition of Confession, Communion, Visit to a church or public oratory, and prayer for the intention of the Holy Father, can be gained:

I. On the day of admission into the confraternity, or on any one of the seven days immediately following.

II. By all members:

1. On the day when the confraternity in which they are enrolled celebrates its affiliation with the Archconfraternity.

2. On the feasts of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in June and St. Alphonsus (August 2), or on any one of the seven days following.

3. Four times a year, on any day the members may choose, if they have recited at least once each day the prayer "O most zealous Doctor, St. Alphonsus". Page 45.

4. Once a year, on the day when they assist at the Mass celebrated for the souls of deceased members according to the statutes of the Archconfraternity.

5. Once a month:

a. On any day they choose for the renewal of their consecration to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and to St. Alphonsus which they made on the day of their reception.

b. If at least once a day for a month they recite the invocations "O Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for me" — "St. Alphonsus, my Protector, in all my needs make me have recourse to Mary".

6. As often as, during Triduums and Novenas held in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, they assist at least twice at these services.

B. A PLENARY INDULGENCE IN THE HOUR OF DEATH, on the usual conditions.

C. PARTIAL INDULGENCES can be gained by all members who are at least contrite of heart, as follows:

I. SEVEN YEARS AND SEVEN TIMES FORTY DAYS:

1. On the feasts of Our Lady of Good Counsel (April 26), of the Archangels Sts. Gabriel (March 24) and Michael (Sept. 29), of St. Matthew, (Sept. 21), if they visit a church or public oratory and pray for the intention of the Holy Father.

2. As often as they attend the exercises of Triduums and Novenas held in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and pray devoutly for the intention of the Holy Father.

3. Once a day, if they recite the prayer "O most zealous Doctor, St. Alphonsus." Page 45.

II. THREE HUNDRED DAYS:

1. Every day on which they visit a church or public oratory and the picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help or of St. Alphonsus there exposed, and pray for the intention of the Holy Father.

2. Three times each day, if in the morning, at noon, and in the evening, they devoutly recite the invocations "O Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for me" — "St. Alphonsus, my Protector, in all my needs make me have recourse to Mary."

III. ONE HUNDRED DAYS once a day, if they piously recite the antiphon "Holy Mary, assist . . . who implore thy Perpetual Help."

IV. SIXTY DAYS, as often as they attend Mass or other divine services in a church or public oratory, or perform any other work of piety or charity which is in accordance with the purpose of the confraternity.

D. AN ADULT by virtue of which all Masses said by any priest for the soul of a member of the confraternity who died in the grace of God, will be of the same benefit to that soul as if those Masses were said at a privileged altar.

ANTIPHON

Holy Mary, assist the miserable, help the fainthearted, cheer those that weep, pray for the people, be the advocate of the clergy, intercede for the devout female sex; let all feel thine aid who implore thy Perpetual Help.

Practices Recommended to Members

1. To place in their homes a *Picture* of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, to honor her as patron and protectress of the family—to say their usual prayers before the picture. To carry a smaller one in their prayer books.

2. To wear the *Medal* of the Confraternity constantly.

3. To say every morning and evening *Three Hail Marys* in honor of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception, and after each the prayer of St. Alphonsus for purity; "By thy Immaculate Conception, O Mary, make my body pure and my soul holy". (Indulgence: 300 days twice a day, morning and evening.)

4. To recite a "*Glory be to the Father*" each day in honor of St. Alphonsus.

5. To accustom themselves to the frequent use of the ejaculations: "Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for us!"

"My Protector, St. Alphonsus, in all my wants make me have recourse to Mary!" (Indulg. 300 days 3 times a day — Plenary once a month — for each.)

6. Fervently to prepare to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, fixed usually for 3rd Sunday in June (Sunday preceding Feast of St. John Baptist, June 24) and that of St. Alphonsus, (Aug. 2) particularly by receiving the Holy Sacraments on these days.

7. To visit as frequently as possible the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and pray devoutly before the miraculous picture.

8. To be familiar with the history of the picture, the benefits accruing from membership in the confraternity, and to strive to spread the wonderful devotion.

9. To attend devotions in honor of Our Blessed Mother especially the public confraternity devotions.

10. To assist at the Solemn Requiem High Mass which is celebrated each year for those who die as members of the confraternity. This is offered on the first day possible after the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, in June.

Not to forget to renew the Acts of Consecration every month on the specified day, if possible after Holy Communion.

Part II.

The Miraculous Picture

1. History

It is well nigh impossible to know the name of the artist who conceived the sublime idea and was so singularly privileged to paint this favorite picture of the Madonna. Judging from the style and manner of the original painting, it must have been executed about the latter part of the 14th century. Originally it was on the Island of Crete. How it subsequently came to be set up for public veneration in 1499 in Rome is recorded on a well authenticated document, a copy of which was recently found. The original document hung near the picture in the Church of St. Matthew, the Apostle.

A certain merchant, a native of Crete, (whether through avarice or misplaced devotion it is not certain) stole away the Image of the Virgin, which had worked many miracles in a church on the Island of Crete. Taking passage on a ship, he wrapped up the picture in his belongings and set

out to sea. A violent tempest arose so that the sailors feared for their safety, and although they knew nothing of the Image on board, prayed fervently to God and the Blessed Virgin to be spared from the impending danger. With God's help they arrived safely in port. That same year the merchant came to Rome, carrying the Image with him.

Stricken down with disease, he betook himself to a Roman friend and asked him to care for him in his sickness. Despite skilful nursing the sick man grew worse, until it was evident that his end was at hand. In those last moments of his earthly existence the Image of Mary which he had stolen from its sanctuary in Crete and still retained in his belongings, was uppermost in his thoughts. Calling his friend, he tearfully besought him to promise one last favor.

The promise was solemnly given. Then the dying man told the whole story of the picture concealed in his merchandise, and added: "Since my death will prevent the restoration of the picture to public veneration in the place where I had determined to bring it, I beg you to have it placed in whichever church of Rome you may

deem most suitable, in order that it may again receive the homage of the faithful."

Shortly afterward, the Cretan merchant, in whom devotion and dishonesty were so strangely blended, died a Christian death, confident that his friend would fulfil his last request. Unknowingly and even unwillingly the merchant had helped along the designs of God Who willed that the Image of His Mother should find a new abode in the Eternal City whence she would extend her maternal assistance into many more regions than when the picture was enthroned in the segregated Island of Crete.

The friend to whose care the dying merchant had committed the precious picture, was a man of weak and fickle character, who allowed himself to be dominated by his capricious and hot tempered wife. Moreover, his father, a crafty and avaricious old man, dwelt with him. On the weaknesses and passions of these three the devil expended all his arts, that he might persuade them to exert a rigorous resistance to the designs of the Mother of God. The wife, charmed by the beauty of the picture found among the belongings of the Cretan mer-

chant, took immediate possession of it and put it in her bed chamber. The husband hesitated to oppose the wishes of his wife, who was determined that the beautiful picture should not leave the house.

To overcome the culpable weakness of the dead merchant's friend, some extraordinary sign from heaven was necessary. One night he had a dream—one of those exceptional dreams that give clear evidence of their origin and of their purpose. He seemed to behold the Blessed Virgin, who reminded him in an affectionate yet serious tone, that he was doing wrong in retaining possession of the picture which should be exposed in a public church. On awakening, the man felt serious qualms of conscience for his inexcusable failure to fulfil his promise. Nevertheless he felt incapable of opposing the wishes of his wife, and so he tried to persuade himself that the occurrence was not a heaven-sent warning, but only the meaningless fantasy of a dream.

Our Blessed Lady repeated the warning, but the result was the same. A third time she spoke, adding solemnly: "If you do not have my picture placed in some church, you

shall die." Terrified by this dread threat, the man mustered up the courage to give an account of his dreams to his wife, asserting at the same time his intention to fulfil the promise made to the dying merchant. Enraged at her husband's words, the woman burst into a torrent of abuse at his folly and gullibility in trusting so readily in dreams. "Do you think I am a heathen," she cried, "unworthy of possessing a picture of Our Lady? Am I not a Christian?" Overwhelmed by the violence of invective, the weakling lost all his courage and remained silent—and thus filled up the measure of his iniquity. However, the Mother of God in her mercy and compassion wished to warn the unhappy man of his approaching punishment, in order that, although unable to avoid the death of the body, he might at least escape the death of the soul, and so for the last time she appeared to him in sleep, and said: "I have warned you repeatedly to bring me forth from here, and you have disobeyed my command. Now you yourself must leave this house—then I shall find a more honorable place."

A few days later there issued from the door of the house a mournful pro-

cession, bearing the body of the man who had showed himself so unfaithful to the promise made at the death-bed of the Cretan merchant.

The widow and her father-in-law do not seem to have discerned the connection between the sudden death of the master of the house, and the threefold warning that had come to him in sleep. At any rate, they continued to keep possession of the picture as if nothing had happened. It was necessary for Our Lady herself to intervene again in order to overcome this blind obstinacy. One night the Blessed Virgin warned the headstrong woman in a dream to give up the picture for public exposition, adding that if her command were transgressed the woman and her father-in-law would be punished with death. The woman was terrified, and resolved to obey. But the old man succeeded in deterring her from this resolution, by painting in glowing colors the rich reward that would accrue from the sale of the picture, and that would prove a providential means of restoring the family fortune. It seems incredible that these two could so obstinately resist the oft-repeated warnings of God. Fortun-

ately, they were dealing with Mary, so good and so merciful, who was willing to give this disobedient pair another chance. The woman had a little daughter, a child of about seven years. It was through this innocent little one that Our Lady finally overcome the obstinacy of the old man and his daughter-in-law.

One day, while the child was alone in the room where the picture was hanging, she saw before her a most beautiful lady, of kind and gracious mien who said to her: "Go and say to your mother and to your grandfather, 'The *Blessed Virgin Mary of Perpetual Help* admonishes you to take her from your house or you shall die'." These few words of God's holy Mother contain a revelation of the utmost importance. The expression "The Blessed Virgin Mary of Perpetual Help" had never been heard before, and so it was by the lips of Our Lady Herself that this consoling title was first pronounced. Up to that time our picture had no special title; the nearest approach to such being "Our Lady of Crete." The Cretan merchant had not mentioned the title under which it was venerated in his native land, or if he had done so, the

name probably in Greek, and hence difficult to remember—had been forgotten. Our Blessed Lady herself desired to assume this new title of “Perpetual Help” in order to express the inexhaustible power of her protection and the unlimited goodness of her maternal heart.

The little girl so highly favored as to be chosen by Mary as her messenger, ran immediately to her mother and told with her innocent lips the story which the child herself could not have invented. The mother was overcome with emotion and began to weep aloud, realizing clearly that she had despised the commands of Our Blessed Lady and had thus been the cause of her husband’s death.

A woman who lived nearby heard the cries, and hurried to find out the reason for so great affliction. This time Satan endeavored by means of this circumstance to destroy the sacred image. Hearing the cause of the weeping, the neighbor smiled and with an air of sympathetic condescension said: “Poor foolish creature to believe such nonsense! Our Lady is in heaven, and does not concern herself about a mere picture. Here, I’ll take it, if you have not the cour-

age yourself, and throw it into the fire, and you'll see that it will burn up like any other piece of wood." The widow, however, rejected this proposal and the other took her departure, full of scorn at what she considered superstitious folly. But that very evening the irreverent woman was seized with what appeared to be a pestilential fever that coursed like fire through her veins. The unhappy creature recognized in this sudden illness the hand of God chastising her for the insult she had offered to the picture of Our Lady, and with tears streaming from her eyes hastened to the picture and implored pardon for her offence. How bountiful the mercy of God's Mother! In a single instant the woman was cured of her dreadful malady. The widow was present at this scene. The two women, deeply moved embraced each other and promised to have the picture publicly exposed as soon as possible under the title of Perpetual Help. The spirit of darkness was vanquished. Our Lady was victorious. Nothing now remained but to select one of the many churches of Rome to be a sanctuary of the Mother of Perpetual Help. Again, however, Our Blessed

Lady miraculously manifested her pleasure. Appearing as before to the widow's little daughter, Mary said: "Go and tell your mother to have my picture exposed between the Basilicas of St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran, in the Church dedicated to St. Matthew."

Accordingly, on the 27th of March, 1499, a most imposing ceremony took place before the assembled clergy and people of Rome. The picture was borne in triumphant procession through the streets of the Eternal City, and placed in the beautiful church she had so singularly selected for her future dwelling place. It was from this sanctuary she would continue to dispense her special graces and favors to the multitudes who would there seek her maternal protection.

In the year 1798 the Revolution swept over Europe, and as the many venerated monuments of religious antiquity fell before the hordes of merciless fanatics, this Blessed Sanctuary was not overlooked.

Amidst the devastation which spread sorrow and sadness on all sides, the news reached the afflicted inhabitants of Rome that the ancient

Church of St. Matthew was to be destroyed, and that the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help which it contained would be desecrated. The event, alas! was only too soon to be realized.

With the destruction of their church the Augustinians were obliged to bid adieu to their beloved home and seek shelter in Santa Maria in Posterula, which church Pope Pius VII eventually committed to their care.

Notwithstanding the sad circumstances that accompanied their removal, the afflicted community did not omit to take with them the Miraculous Picture they so dearly prized. On account of the troublesome times, however, it was no longer exposed to public veneration, and was soon lost sight of by the people.

The Miraculous Picture is Confided to the Redemptorists in Rome

It was not until the year 1866 that the Miraculous Picture was again exposed to the veneration of the faithful. During the long years which intervened between the Revolutionary period and the above date, many changes had taken place in the Capital

of the Christian world. Among others, the beautiful Church of St. Alphonsus had sprung up on the ancient ruins of St. Matthew's and the Miraculous Picture had been confided, in a very providential manner, to the Redemptorists, who now occupied the site of the once celebrated sanctuary.

By order of Pope Pius IX, December 11, 1865, the picture was transferred to the Redemptorists, to be returned to the spot chosen by the Blessed Mother herself for the veneration of the faithful. Therefore, one beautiful morning in April 1866 there issued forth from the modest dwelling of the Redemptorists a solemn procession, bearing aloft to the gaze of the delighted inhabitants of Rome the Miraculous Image of the Queen of Heaven. The streets through which the procession was to pass were thronged with eager spectators, who were anxious to catch a glimpse of the long hidden and well-nigh forgotten treasure they had once so highly venerated.

As the triumphant procession was slowly wending its way beneath the beautiful arches and decorated balconies of the Eternal City, at frequent intervals cries of joy and exclama-

tions of praise went up from the surging masses in thanksgiving for the many favors their beloved Benefactress was showering down upon them as she was carried along. The picture was then placed over the High altar in the Church of St. Alphonsus.

Ever since that memorable day of April 26, the holy enthusiasm which inflamed the hearts of the Roman people has increased with time, and now the devotion to Our Dear Mother of Perpetual Help extends throughout the entire world.

Such is a brief history of the Miraculous Picture of Our Blessed Lady of Perpetual Help. The Image venerated at our Shrine resembles the original, not only in design and coloring, but principally in the many favors which Almighty God has accorded through the intercession of His ever Blessed and Immaculate Mother to those who visit it.

2. Description of the Miraculous Picture

The picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is a painting on wood of Grecian Style. It is about twenty

inches high and sixteen wide. On a golden background appears the Blessed Virgin with her Divine Child resting on her left arm. A dark blue veil falls in graceful folds from her head and her red garment is bordered with gold. The aureole surrounding her head is artistically ornamented and beneath it is a bright star. On either side of her head are four Greek letters, MP ΘV, which signify "Mother of God."

The eyes of the Divine Child are turned sadly towards an object at His left, which seems to inspire Him with fear, and He clasps in His own His Mother's right hand as if mutely imploring her protection. He is clad in a green garment, with a red girdle which is partly concealed under a brown mantle. His head is also surrounded by a halo and above His left shoulder are the letters IC. XC., which signify "Jesus Christ." An angel standing a little above the Infant Jesus to His left holds in his hands a cross and four nails, which he presents to the Holy Child as the future instruments of His Passion. This is the cause of the expression of fear on the face of the Divine Child. Above the angel are found the Greek

letters O A Γ, which signify "Gabriel the Archangel."

To the right of the Blessed Virgin stands another angel bearing in his hands a vase containing the lance, the reed and the sponge. Over this angel are the initials, O A M which signify "Michael the Archangel."

On June 25, 1867 the picture was publicly crowned by the Chapter of St. Peter's, thus being recognized as a Miraculous Image.

What is most impressive in this picture is the sad and wistful look of the Blessed Virgin turned upon the beholder with a loving tenderness. She seems to say to all those who suffer: "Have confidence in me; I have suffered and I know how to sympathize with you. I am the Mother of Perpetual Help."



Mother of Perpetual Help

O Virgin Mother, full of grace,
Above all Creatures blest!
What clouds of sorrow crossed thy
face!

What seas thy soul oppressed!

Chorus.

O Queen of Martyrs, for us plead!
Sweet Mother throned on high,
Perpetu'l Help is our great need:
Pray for us, hear our cry!

Thy tender child beholds with fear,
The Cross, the lance, the nails;
And clings to thee—His Mother Dear,
For help which never fails.—*Chorus.*

With hands in thine, He trusted thee
In Childhoods every need;
Those Hands Divine on Calvary,
For us poor sinners bleed!—*Chorus.*

Beneath the Cross He saw thee stand—
God's Mother ever true—
He gave thee then the sweet command,
To be our Mother too.—*Chorus.*

Thou art indeed Salvation's Ark
On life's deep stormy sea;
Our refuge in temptations dark,
Oh may we cling to thee!—*Chorus.*

*Limerick,
Ireland,*

*Rev. P. Brennan.
C.SS.R*



**St. Alphonsus de Liguori,
Bishop, Doctor of the Church,
Founder of the Congregation
of the Most Holy Redeemer.**

Part III.

Devotions in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Alphonsus

[These prayers, are used for the confraternity devotions in some churches. The devotions, begin with Recitation of the Rosary, and close with Benediction.]

Litany of the Blessed Virgin

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father of Heaven,
 have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the World,
 have mercy on us, etc.
God the Holy Ghost,
Holy Trinity, One God,
Holy Mary, Pray for us,

Holy Mother of God, Pray etc.
Holy Virgin of virgins,
Mother of Christ,
Mother of divine grace,
Mother most pure,
Mother most chaste,
Mother inviolate,
Mother undefiled,
Mother most amiable,
Mother most admirable,
Mother of Good Counsel,
(Mother of Perpetual Help,)
Mother of our Creator,
Mother of our Saviour,
Virgin most prudent,
Virgin most venerable,
Virgin most renowned,
Virgin most powerful,
Virgin most merciful,
Virgin most faithful,
Mirror of justice,
Seat of wisdom,
Cause of our joy,
Spiritual vessel,
Vessel of honor,
Singular vessel of devotion,
Mystical rose,
Tower of David,
Tower of ivory,
House of gold,
Ark of the covenant,

Gate of heaven,
 Morning star,
 Health of the sick,
 Refuge of sinners,
 Comfortress of the afflicted,
 Help of Christians,
 Queen of Angels,
 Queen of Patriarchs,
 Queen of Prophets,
 Queen of Apostles,
 Queen of Martyrs,
 Queen of Confessors,
 Queen of Virgins,
 Queen of all Saints,
 Queen conceived without original sin,
 Queen assumed into Heaven,
 Queen of the most holy Rosary,
 Queen of Peace,

Lamb of God, who takest away the
 sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the
 sins of the world, graciously hear
 us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the
 sins of the world, have mercy on us.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of
 God.

R. That we may be made worthy
 of the promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray

Grant, O Lord God, we beseech Thee, that we thy servants may rejoice in continual health of mind and body; and through the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, be freed from present sorrow and enjoy eternal gladness. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(Indulgence 300 days.)

Hymn to the Mother of Perpetual Help

O, Mother of Perpetual Help!
To thee we come imploring help.
Behold us here, from far and near.
To ask of Thee our help to be.

Perpetual Help! we beg of thee
Our souls from sin and sorrow free.
Direct our wandering feet aright,
And be thyself our own true light.

Be thou to us, through all this life,
The starlight of this earthly strife,
And, Mother, when I come to die,
Be thou, thy spouse and Jesus nigh.

And when this life is o'er for me,
This last request I ask of thee;
Obtain for me in Heaven this grace,
To see my God there face to face.

Art of Consecration
To Our Lady of Perpetual Help
To Be Renewed Every Month
(To be repeated with pauses as indicated)

Most Holy Virgin Mary,/ who
to inspire me with the fullest confidence/
hast been willing to take the sweet name/
of Mother of Perpetual Help,/ I,,/ acknowledge
that my sins render me unworthy/
to be admitted among the number/
of thy privileged children./ Nevertheless,/ desirous of enjoying thy
merciful favor,/ I cast myself at
thy feet,/ and humbly prostrate before thee,
I consecrate to thee my understanding,
that I may always think of the love/
which thou deservest;/ I consecrate to thee my
tongue,/ that I may always make use of it/
to proclaim thy sublime prerogatives/
and to propagate devotion to thee;/ I consecrate to thee
my heart,/ in order that, after

God,/ I may love thee/ above all things./

O my Sovereign Lady,/ deign to receive me/ among the number of thy favored children;/ take me under thy protection;/ help me in all my spiritual and temporal wants,/ but especially at the hour of my death./

O Mother of Perpetual Help,/ I know that thou lovest me/ more than I can love myself./ I, therefore, entrust all my interests to thy care;/ dispose of me, and all that belongs to me,/ according to thy good pleasure./

O my Mother, bless me,/ and by thy powerful intercession/ support my weakness,/ so that having been faithful in serving thee/ during this life,/ I may praise thee,/ love thee,/ and thank thee eternally in the next./

O Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for me. Amen./

Prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

(One of the three following)

1.

Behold at thy feet, O Mother of Perpetual Help! a wretched sinner who has recourse to thee and confides in thee. O Mother of Mercy! have pity on me. I hear thee called by all the Refuge and the Hope of Sinners; be then my refuge and my hope. Assist me for the love of Jesus Christ; stretch forth thy hand to a miserable, fallen creature, who recommends himself to thee and who devotes himself to thy service forever. I bless and thank Almighty God, who in His mercy has given me this confidence in thee, which I hold to be a pledge of my eternal salvation. It is true that in the past I have miserably fallen into sin because I had not recourse to thee. I know that with thy help I shall conquer. I know, too, that thou wilt assist me, if I recommend myself to thee; but I fear that

in time of danger I may neglect to call on thee, and thus lose my soul. This grace, then I ask of thee, and this I beg, with all the fervor of my soul, that, in all the attacks of hell, I may ever have recourse to thee. O Mary, help me. O Mother of Perpetual Help, never suffer me to lose my God.

2.

O Mother of Perpetual Help! grant that I may ever invoke thy most powerful name, which is the safeguard of the living and the salvation of the dying. O purest Mary! O sweetest Mary! let thy name henceforth be ever on my lips. Delay not, O Blessed Lady, to help me whenever I call on thee; for, in all my temptations, in all my needs, I shall never cease to call on thee, ever repeating thy sacred name, Mary, Mary. O what consolation, what sweetness, what confidence, what emotion fills my soul when I utter thy sacred name, or even only think of thee! I thank the Lord for having given thee, for my good, so sweet so powerful, so lovely a name. But I will not be content with merely uttering thy name. Let my love for thee prompt me ever

to hail thee, Mother of Perpetual Help.

3.

O Mother of Perpetual Help! thou art the dispenser of all the gifts which God grants to us, miserable sinners, and for this end He has made thee so powerful, so rich, and so bountiful, in order that thou mayest help us in our misery. Thou art the advocate of the most wretched and abandoned sinners who have recourse to thee; come to my help, I commend myself to thee. In thy hands I place my eternal salvation, and to thee I entrust my soul. Count me among thy most devoted servants; take me under thy protection, and it is enough for me. For, if thou protect me, I fear nothing: not from my sins, because thou wilt obtain for me the pardon of them; nor from the devils, because thou art more powerful than all hell together, nor even from Jesus, my Judge, because by one prayer from thee He will be appeased. But one thing I fear, that in the hour of temptation, I may through negligence fail to have recourse to thee and thus perish miserably. Obtain for me therefore, the pardon of my sins, love

for Jesus, final perseverance, and the grace ever to have recourse to thee, O Mother of Perpetual Help!

(Indulgence 100 days, once a day)

V. Pray for us, O Mother of Perpetual Help,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who hast given us Thine own Mother Mary, whose glorious image we venerate, to be our Mother ever ready to come to our help; grant, we beseech Thee, that we, unceasingly imploring her motherly help, may merit always to experience the fruit of Thy Redemption. Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

Prayer to St. Alphonsus, page 49.

Invocations to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

V. O Mother of Perpetual Help, thou whose very name inspires confidence,

R. Help me, O loving Mother.

V. That I may be victorious in the trying time of temptation,

R. Help me, O loving Mother.

V. That I may quickly arise again, should I have the misfortune to fall into sin,

R. Help me, O loving Mother.

V. That I may break asunder any bonds of Satan in which I may become entangled,

R. Help me, O loving Mother.

V. Against the seductions of the world, evil companions, and bad books,

R. Help me, O loving Mother.

V. That I may soon return to my former fervor, should I ever become lukewarm,

R. Help me, O loving Mother.

V. In my preparation for the Sacraments and the performance of my Christian duties,

R. Help me, O loving Mother.

V. In all the trials and troubles of life,

R. Help me, O loving Mother.

V. Against my own inconstancy, that I may persevere to the end,

R. Help me, O loving Mother.

V. That I may ever love thee, and serve thee, and invoke thy assistance,

R. Help me, O loving Mother.

V. That I may be able to induce

others to pray to thee, to love and serve thee,

R. Help me, O loving Mother.

V. O Mother, to my last hour, to my last breath, do thou ever,

R. Help me, O loving Mother.

Let Us Pray

O Holy Virgin Mary, who, in order to inspire us with boundless confidence, hast been pleased to take the name of Mother of Perpetual Help, I implore thee to come to my aid always and everywhere; in my temptations; after my falls; in my difficulties; in all the miseries of life, and above all, at the hour of my death. Give me, loving Mother, the desire, nay more, the habit always to have recourse to thee for I feel assured that if I invoke thee with fidelity thou wilt be faithful to come to my assistance. Obtain for me, then this grace of graces, the grace to pray to thee without ceasing, and with child-like confidence, that by virtue of this faithful prayer I may ensure thy Perpetual Help and final perseverance. Bless me, O loving and ever-helpful Mother, and pray for me now and at the hour of my death. Amen.

Devotions in Honor of St. Alphonsus

Act of Consecration

O most zealous Doctor of the Church St. Alphonsus, I, though unworthy to be thy servant, yet encouraged by the goodness of thy heart, and by the great desire I have to please thee, come today, in the presence of the Most Holy Trinity, of my Angel Guardian, and of the Court of Heaven to choose thee for my Father, and, after Mary, my Patron and my Protector; I firmly promise to serve thee always and to do all in my power to make others love thee also.

I entreat thee, then, my glorious Protector, by the love which thou bearest to Jesus and Mary, to receive me into the number of thy devoted children, and to protect me at all times. Obtain for me especially, O my Father, detachment from creatures, a tender and constant devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin Mary, the spirit of prayer, and an ardent Zeal for the salvation of souls. Accept this humble prayer as a sign of my con-

secration to thy service; assist me during life, and especially at my death, so that, having honored and served thee on earth, I may deserve to share with thee the joys of heaven for all eternity. Amen.

Ejaculation: My Protector, St. Alphonsus, in all my wants make me have recourse to Mary.

Nine Petitions to St. Alphonsus to Obtain the Graces Necessary for Salvation

1. O most zealous Doctor of the Church St. Alphonsus, obtain for me a lively faith in all the truths which the Holy Roman Church teaches, together with Divine light to know the vanity of all earthly things, and the hideousness of my sins. Glory be to the Father, etc.

2. O most zealous Doctor of the Church St. Alphonsus, obtain for me a firm hope of receiving from God through the merits of Jesus Christ, and the intercession of Mary, and your prayers, the pardon of my sins, final perseverance, and Paradise. Glory, etc.

3. O most zealous Doctor of the

Church St. Alphonsus, obtain for me an ardent love of God, that will detach me from all created things and from myself, to love Him alone, and consume myself for His glory. Glory, etc.

4. O most zealous Doctor of the Church St. Alphonsus, obtain for me a perfect resignation to the holy will of God, that I may accept in peace sufferings, contempt, persecutions, loss of goods and reputation, the loss of my relations, and finally death itself. Glory, etc.

5. O most zealous Doctor of the Church St. Alphonsus, obtain for me a heartfelt sorrow for my sins, that I may never cease to weep over the displeasure I have given my God. Glory, etc.

6. O most zealous Doctor of the Church St. Alphonsus, obtain for me a practical love towards my neighbor, that will make me do good even to those who have offended me. Glory, etc.

7. O most zealous Doctor of the Church St. Alphonsus, obtain for me the holy virtue of purity and the help requisite to resist impure temptations by invoking the holy names of Jesus and Mary. Glory, etc.

8. O most zealous Doctor of the Church St. Alphonsus, obtain for me a tender devotion to the Passion of Jesus Christ, to the Most Blessed Sacrament and to my dear Mother Mary. Glory, etc.

9. O most zealous Doctor of the Church St. Alphonsus, obtain for me above all the grace of final perseverance, and the grace always to pray for it, especially in the time of temptation and at the hour of my death. Glory, etc.

V. Pray for us, O Blessed Alphonsus Mary,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray

O God, Who by blessed Alphonsus Mary, Thy Confessor and Bishop, inflamed with zeal for souls, didst render Thy Church fruitful in a new religious family, we beseech Thee, that taught by his salutary admonitions, and strengthened by his example, we may be enabled happily to arrive at the possession of Thee. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Prayer to St. Alphonsus

O St. Alphonsus, most faithful servant of Mary, thou who knowest how much this good Mother is worthy of being loved, honored, and served, make me, I pray thee, understand her sublime privileges, in order to admire, praise, and love her—her eminent virtues, in order to imitate them.

O my holy Protector, I wish to serve Mary as thou hast served her, to love her as much as thou hast loved her, and to become as dear to her heart as thyself. But the accomplishment of this desire is, I confess, far above my own power; my heart is too much attached to creatures to rise so high; therefore I address myself to thee, my Advocate, and I beg of thee to obtain for me at least the grace to love Mary, to honor and serve her with all my strength; but obtain for me especially the grace always to invoke her under the consoling title of Mother of Perpetual Help. Amen.

Hymn to St. Alphonsus

Hark! Angelic songs resounding
Thru the happy court of Heaven;
For the triumph of Alphonsus
Endless praise to God is given.

Chorus

St. Alphonsus, holy Patron
Of our Confraternity,
Let thy children sing thy praises
In a blest Eternity.

When Alphonsus speaks of Mary;
When his lips pronounce Her name
Every word with love is burning
And his hearers catch the flame.

Chorus

St. Alphonsus, holy Father!
Hear our praises, grant our prayer;
Make us love our Blessed Mother,
And in Heaven Her glory share.

See Alphonsus, silent kneeling,
Rapt in loving ecstasy,
At the altar where his Jesus
Hides in love His Majesty.

Chorus

St. Alphonsus, dearest Father!
Would our hearts were like to thine.
Make us share thy deep devotion
To this Sacrament Divine.

Additional Prayers

Memorare of St. Bernard

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to Thy protection, implored Thy help, and sought Thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto Thee, O virgin of virgins, my Mother! To Thee I come, before Thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Incarnate Word, despise not my petitions, but in Thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

(An Indulgence of 3 years.—Plenary Indulgence once a month on the usual conditions for the daily recitation of this prayer. No. 309).

Consecration to Mary

We venerate Thee, most holy Virgin, with our whole heart, above all the angels and saints of Paradise, as daughter of the eternal Father, and consecrate to Thee our soul with all its powers. Hail Mary, etc.

We venerate Thee, most holy Virgin, with our whole heart, above all the angels and saints of Paradise, as Mother of the only-begotten Son, and we consecrate to Thee our body with all its senses. Hail Mary, etc.

We venerate Thee, most holy Virgin, with our whole heart, above all the angels and saints of Paradise, as the beloved Spouse of the Holy Ghost, and we consecrate to Thee our heart with all its affections, beseeching Thee to obtain for us from the most holy Trinity all the means necessary for our salvation. Hail Mary, etc.

Prayer for the Conversion of Infidels and Sinners

Almighty, eternal God, who offerest Thy assistance to all and dost not wish any one to be lost, look graciously down upon the souls seduced by the wiles of Satan, that they may renounce all their wicked errors and every malice, change their hearts, and return to the communion of Thy only true and saving Church, through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son who with Thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth world without end. Amen.

Prayer for Victory in Temptations, Especially those Against Chastity

Hail Mary.

My Queen! my mother! I give myself entirely to thee; and to show my

devotion to thee I consecrate to thee this day my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my whole being without reserve. Wherefore, good mother, as I am thine own, keep me, guard me, as thy property and possession.

(Indulgence of 100 days, once a day if said morning and evening.)

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

(Indulgence of 300 days, once a day. No. 325)

Novena in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Devout clients of Our Blessed Lady will perhaps desire to know what is the meaning of a Novena, or when such a pious practice was first introduced.

The practice of making a Novena, or nine days' prayer, dates back to the time when Our Blessed Lady and the Apostles, after the ascension of our Lord into heaven, remained nine days in prayer, in preparation for the coming of the Holy Ghost.

Ever since that time it has been the pious custom of the faithful to make Novenas in commemoration of some mystery in the life of Our Lord,

or in honor of the Blessed Virgin, or some Saint for whom they have particular devotion, hoping thereby to obtain some special grace or favor, through the intercession of these privileged friends of God.

During the last half a century, perhaps the most popular Novena among all classes of the faithful throughout the entire Christian world, is in honor of Our dear and Immaculate Mother, under the sweet and consoling title of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help." Mary on her part, has ever shown herself willing to justify that beautiful title, as thousands in all parts of the globe can testify, who have received extraordinary favors, both spiritual and temporal, when invoking her intercession.

The questions are frequently asked: When and how, should a Novena in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help be made? What should be done? What prayers should be said, etc?

In answer to such questions, we will say, there is no special form prescribed by the Church; but the following prayers and pious practices are most suitable in honor of Our Blessed Lady, to obtain the graces or favors solicited.

To assist in keeping before the mind of the person or persons making the Novena, as also to inspire greater confidence and devotion, it would be well to observe the following:

(For those who are unable to observe these exterior marks of devotion, owing sometimes to peculiar surroundings, it will suffice to say the prayers privately.)

1. Place a picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in a prominent place in your house, and before the picture two candles, which should be burning while the prayers of the Novena are being recited.

2. Say nine Hail Marys each day of the Novena, with one of the prayers found on pages 39, 40 and 41 of this Manual.

3. If possible, have all the members of your family join in the Novena.

4. Perform little acts of self-denial. Give alms to some poor person or assist in other good works.

5. Make some promise to Our Blessed Lady, should the request be granted, for instance, to have a Mass of Thanksgiving said in her honor.

6. Receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion during the Novena, thereby rendering yourself more worthy to obtain the favor asked.

A Novena in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help may be made at any time during the year; but it is very appropriate to make it during the nine days preceding the principal feasts celebrated by the Church in her honor, which are the following:

1. The Purification, Feb. 2, Novena begins Jan. 24.

2. The Annunciation, Mar. 25, Novena begins Mar. 16.

3. Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the Sunday preceding June 24. Novena begins Friday of the foregoing week.

4. The Visitation, July 2, Novena begins June 23.

5. The Assumption, Aug. 15, Novena begins Aug. 6.

6. The Nativity, Sept. 8, Novena begins Aug. 30.

7. The Presentation, Nov. 21, Novena begins Nov. 12.

8. The Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, Novena begins Nov. 29.

THE REDEMPTORIST LAY BROTHER

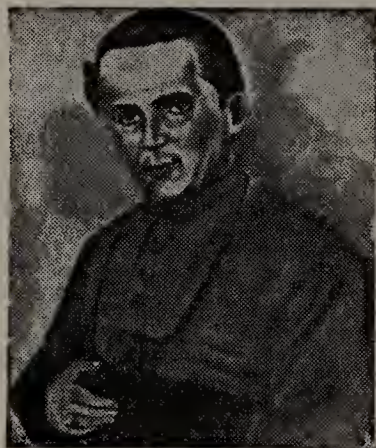
No long period of training is required of a lay brother. Nevertheless, he is given sufficient time to try out the lay brother's life before making his final decision.

The young man who desires to become a lay brother applies for admission (see below). Then he goes to Ephrata, Penna. where he makes a postulancy for at least six months. Then he becomes a novice brother for a year.

During this year of novitiate, he tries out community life as a religious and the Superior representing the Redemptorists tries him out to find out whether he is fitted to become a religious. As a novice, he wears the garb of a lay brother.

Even after this year, he need not make any final decision. He takes his vows for three years. This is followed by another year living under the vows. Then if he has convinced himself and his Superiors that he will be a good and happy Redemptorist lay brother, he is permitted to take vows for life.

Apply to VOCATIONAL DIRECTOR
5 East 74th St., New York 21, N. Y.



PRAYER
for the
Beatification
of Ven.

Bishop Neumann,
C.S.S.R.

O My God, I adore Thy infinite Majesty with all the powers of my soul. I thank Thee for the graces and gifts which Thou didst bestow upon Thy faithful Servant, Bishop Neumann. I ask Thee to glorify him also on earth. For this end I beseech Thee to grant me the favor which I humbly ask from Thy Fatherly mercy. Amen.

(200 days indulgence.)

✠ J. F. O'Hara, C.S.C.-D.D.—May 10, 1955.

(3 Our Fathers and 3 Hail Marys.)

N.B. — If anyone receives a favor through Ven. Bishop Neumann's intercession, kindly inform the Vice Postulator at:

St. Peter's Rectory, 1019 N. 5th Street
Philadelphia 23, Pa., U.S.A.

Ven Neumann as a missionary and bishop brought salvation to countless Catholics of America. His saintly career, though characterized by a wonderful simplicity of apostolic works, was nevertheless one of marvellous activity. Just because of this very simplicity, Pope Benedict XV found in them a strong argument for saying to the faithful of whatever age, sex or condition: "*You are all bound to imitate the Ven. Neumann.*"

Bishop Neumann is the first Bishop of a See in the United States whose virtues have been declared heroic by the Church, Dec. 11. 1921.

Further steps may now be taken toward his Beatification. Pray often that God may soon grant this honor to America.

Ven. Neumann was born in Prachattitz, Bohemia, on March 28, 1811. His love for the American missions led him to sail for New York in 1836. That same year he was ordained priest for the diocese of New York, where he labored for four years. He then became an American Redemptorist missionary. He was consecrated Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, March 28, 1852. He died in his episcopal city in the odor of sanctity, Jan. 5, 1860. His remains lie in the crypt of St. Peter's Church, Fifth St. and Girard Ave., Philadelphia.

Prayer of St. Alphonsus in Honor of the Blessed Virgin

Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin and my Mother, Mary, * to thee, who art the Mother of my Lord, * the Queen of the world, * the Advocate, the Hope, and the Refuge of sinners, * I have recourse to-day, I who am the most miserable of all. * I render thee my most humble homage, O Great Queen, * and I thank thee for all the graces thou hast obtained for me until now, * and in particular for having saved me from hell which I have so often deserved. * I love thee, O most Amiable Lady; * and, for the love which I bear thee, * I promise to serve thee always and to do all in my power to make others also love thee. * I place in thee all my hopes and I confide my salvation to thy care. * Accept me for thy servant and receive me under thy mantle, O Mother of Mercy. * And, since thou art so powerful with God, deliver me from all temptations, * or, rather, obtain for me the strength to triumph over them until death. * Of thee I ask a perfect love for Jesus Christ; * through thee I hope to die a good death. * O my Mother, by the love which thou bearest to God, * I beseech thee to help me at all times * but especially at the last moment of my life. * Leave me not, I beseech thee, until thou seest me safe in heaven, * blessing thee and singing thy mercies for all eternity. * Amen; So I hope; so may it be.

Purgatorian Society.

*In honor of the Most Precious Blood of
our Lord.*

OBJECT OF THE PURGATORIAN SOCIETY

The special object of the Purgatorian Society, as the term implies, is to foster among the faithful a lively faith in the following three truths of our holy religion:

1. That after this life there is a middle state of suffering, to which are sent for a time souls, which though in a state of grace and in God's friendship, have not yet fully satisfied the Divine justice for the debt of temporal punishment due for their venial sins, or for their more grievous offences, the guilt of which has been remitted.

2. That the living by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, by prayers, alms-deeds, indulgences, and other

good works, offered to God for the departed, can shorten the sufferings of the Souls in Purgatory, ameliorate their condition and deliver them from their place of torment.

3. That to assist these Suffering Souls is an act of charity most holy, most salutary, and most pleasing to Almighty God.

A simple statement of the special spiritual advantages and privileges will not fail, it is confidently hoped, to induce all who have any feeling of compassion for the intense sufferings endured by the Souls in Purgatory to become faithful and active members, and to induce others to share in such an unselfish and disinterested work of charity.

OBLIGATIONS

1. Fifty Cents is the annual contribution. This contribution may be paid as often as one wishes to do so, and when the offerings have reached the sum of ten dollars, payment ceases, and the membership becomes perpetual and continues after death. The offering for perpetual membership may be paid at once.

2. Living as well as deceased persons may be enrolled at any time during the year. The year begins with the day of enrollment. Enrollment may be made by mail.

3. When contributions are renewed, the certificate of membership should be presented, in order to find the name in the roll-book and to receipt the payment.

4. The members should seek to assist the Souls in Purgatory by their prayers and good works, especially by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; and they should strive to promote this charitable devotion in others.

ADVANTAGES

1. Every day ELEVEN HIGH MASSES are offered for the living and deceased members.

2. The members share in the prayers offered by the Redemptorist Fathers for their benefactors, especially in the Solemn Requiem Mass celebrated annually for benefactors during the month of November.

3. When a living member dies, a special Mass will be offered for his or her soul upon return of the certificate.

4. The Rosary will be recited every Saturday evening in the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help for the deceased members of the Purgatorian Society.

All communications to be directed to:

Purgatorian Society,

1019 N. 5th St., Philadelphia 23, Pa.

Every well instructed Catholic knows that the Sacrifice of the Mass is of infinite value. Members of this Society enjoy the inestimable grace

of having the Holy Sacrifice offered for them every day. They have also the consoling assurance that after death eleven daily Masses will be continued for the repose of their souls. Charitable persons will also find in this Society an excellent opportunity of having the Holy Sacrifice offered every day for their friends, living or dead.

Kindly explain to others the great benefits of the Purgatorian Society.

Never let a day pass by without saying some prayer or performing some penance for the dear Souls in Purgatory. When you are dying they will not forget you, and when you are suffering in Purgatory, they will not cease to pray for you until you are released and united with them in heaven. Remember the most abandoned souls who have neither friend nor relative to pray for them.

“Dear Lord Jesus, grant them (or him) eternal rest.”

300 days each time. Pius X., March 18, 1909.

OUR PUBLICATIONS

The Ascetical Works of St. Alphonsus

The Ascetical works of St. Alphonsus de Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church and Founder of the Redemptorist Order, have been circulated throughout the entire Christian World and translated into almost every known language.

They have been recommended to the faithful by five Sovereign Pontiffs and innumerable Bishops and Priests throughout Europe and America, as embodying in clear and simple language the highest ideals for leading a truly Christian Life and practising the Christian Virtues.

This beautiful edition of nine volumes is bound in a substantial cloth and stamped on back and front of cover with the respective title. Each volume is 5 x 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ and contains from four hundred to five hundred pages.

Preparation for Death	\$2.00
Way of Salvation and of Perfection	2.00
Great Means of Salvation and of Perfection..	2.00
The Incarnation	2.00
The Passion and the Death of Jesus Christ..	2.00
Dignity and Duties of the Priest	2.00
The Blessed Eucharist	2.00
The Spouse of Christ, (two volumes in one) ..	3.00
The Glories of Mary, (two volumes in one) ..	3.00
The Victories of the Martyrs	2.00

MT. ALPHONSUS BOOKSHOP

Esopus, New York

